

## Caverns Stargazing Campout

On Friday August 26th Lewis & Clark Caverns will again host “Star Gazing Under the Caverns Sky” with Thomas Satterly. Satterly is one of our favorite presenters and we are happy to have him back for our fifth annual stargazing campout. He will have at least one large reflecting telescope on hand to give everyone a chance to gaze upon some unique features of the night sky. Besides star gazing Satterly will offer some wonderful interpretation on how people enjoy the night sky.

The program is \$5 per vehicle. Camping is \$15 per unit and includes a breakfast at the campground’s pavilion the morning of Saturday August 27th. Campsites are limited for this wonderful family opportunity so sign up as soon as possible. Please let us know ahead of time if someone in your party has special needs. The programs begin at 8:30 pm and campers can start setting up their site at 6:30 PM.

**Reservations are required for the special event campout & breakfast for more information call (406) 287-3541**

All Camground programs and nature walks are free to Montana Residents

Non residents are required to pay a \$5 day use fee, or be registered campers at the park to enjoy these programs



## Lewis & Clark Caverns State Park Interpretive Events Summer 2011



### Cave Tours offered daily

May 1 to September 30

Tour Times:  
May 1 to June 14: 9:00AM to 4:30PM  
June 15 to Aug 19: 9:00AM to 6:30PM  
Aug 20 to Sept 30: 9:00AM to 4:30PM

Tour Fees: Adults: \$10  
Children 6-11: \$5  
Children 5 and under: free



## About the Cave Tour

Situated between Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks, Lewis & Clark Caverns State Park is an excellent stop along the road as well as a premier destination. The cave tour is the interpretive focus of the park and approximately 50,000 people a year enjoy the tour. It continues to be the park’s biggest draw. The cave is one of the most decorative in the Northwestern United States and is the only show cave in Montana.

Cave tours take around 2 hours and require 2 miles of walking including a three-quarter mile hike to the cave with 300 feet in elevation gain. Inside the cave stooping and bending are required and there are 600 stairs most of which are downhill. Visitors are encouraged to bring water with them during the warmer months, but no other food or drinks are allowed inside the cave. Photography is allowed in the cave, but a flash is needed for good pictures. The cave is electrically lit and flashlights are not necessary. Sturdy rubber soled walking shoes and a sweater or light jacket are highly recommended for the 50° cave.

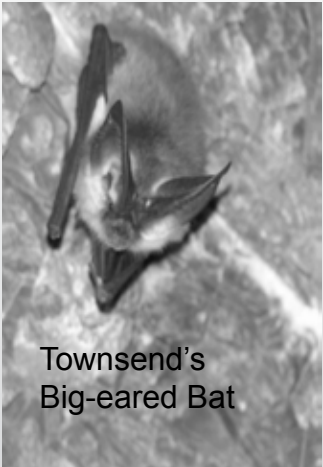


## Special Interpretive Events

### Bat Week

Due to the success we had last year from August 15 to August 20 will be our second annual Bat Week at Lewis & Clark Caverns.

There will be two special tours, “**The Misunderstood Bat**” will occur on Tuesday the 16th and Saturday the 20st at 6:45. A bat program will be held Thursday night in the campground featuring bats and the important roles they play in our lives. For fees and reservations please call ahead.



### Things That Go Bump

This summer Lewis & Clark Caverns State Park will host the fourth annual “Things that Go Bump” walk. This night walk will focus on the night sounds in the park. Bats will be observed and participants will get a rare chance to hear a Common Poorwill in Southwest Montana. The walk is free to Montana Residents and registered campers and will occur at 9:15 on June 17th. Bring bug spray and a jacket!

### Other Opportunities

Other special programs may become available. If you are bringing a group to the park for a special occasion you can request a naturalist program for a fee of \$25 per hour. The park offers a variety of topics relating to the history, geology, flora, fauna and even archaeology of the park and the area.

Special programs require advanced registration. Space is limited so call (406) 287-3541 to make a reservation today.

## Friday Night Campfire Programs

May 27	8 pm	“Dwellings of the Plains Indians” Chris Lunn, Trapline Lodges
Jun 3	8 pm	“Some Favorite Montanan Tales” Hal Stearns, <b>HM</b>
Jun 10	8 pm	“Bring on the Bears” Carla Wambach, Environmental Educator
Jun 17	8pm	“Montana Wilderness Caving” Mike McEachern, Rocky Mountain Grotto
Jun 24	8 pm	“Brother Can You Spare a Dime?” William Rossiter, Musician, <b>HM</b>
Jul 1	8 pm	“Songs We Used to Sing ” Janet Zimmerman, Musician
Jul 8	8 pm	“Western Woman’s Guide to Cast Iron” Connie Olind, Antiques Appraiser
Jul 15	8 pm	“Paleoindians in Montana” Ruthann Knudson, <b>HM</b>
Jul 22	8 pm	“Cowboy Country” Tumbleweed Connection, Musicians
Jul 29	8 pm	“Ferg’s Cowboy & Country” Gary “Ferg” Ferguson, Cowboy Entertainer
Aug 5	8 pm	“Fur Trade History of the Jefferson Valley” Clay Landry, Fur Trade Researcher & Author
Aug 12	8 pm	“Bones! Birds, Dinosaurs and Human” Byron Butler, National Audubon Society
Aug 19	8 pm	A Night of Music with.... Betty & the Boy, Songwriters & Musicians
Sept 2	8 pm	“Singing the Lewis & Clark Legacy” Neal Lewing, Black Paw Music

**HM** designates “Humanities Montana” presenters.

## Thursday Night Ranger Programs

Thursday evening programs will be presented by Park Naturalist Tom Forwood and other park staff. These programs focus on the history, ecology and geology of the park outside the caverns. All talks meet in the campground @ 8:00 PM.

Special Saturday talks  
**Saturday**, May 28 “The Amazing Atlatl” (K)

**Saturday**, June 4 Leave No Trace Program,  
for National Trails Day

Thursday, June 9 “Where the Birds Live” (K)

Thursday, June 16 “Can I Eat This??” (K)

Thursday, June 23 “Cave Rocks in a New Light” (K)

Thursday, June 30 “What a Snake Wears to  
Work” (K)

Thursday, July 7 “Critters of the Caverns and  
Beyond” (K)

Thursday, July 14 “The Jefferson River: then  
and now”

Thursday, July 21 “Geology’s Fault?!?” (K)

Thursday, July 28 “Hazards Faced by Lewis & Clark”

Thursday, August 4 “Return of the Atlatl” (K)

Thursday, August 11 “History of Montana’s First  
State Park”

Thursday, August 18 “Blind as a Bat??”(K)

Thursday, August 25 “Can I Eat This Now????” (K)

A (K) after the program indicates that this is a great program for bringing the kids.

## Saturday Naturalist Walks

Our naturalist led wildflower walks are expanding to more than just flowers. This year birding will play a big role in the walks as well. As always changing of the season and the different park ecosystems will be highlighted. The walks will be held at different times, so please check times or call Tom @ (406) 287-3541  
**This season all walks will meet at the park’s new visitor center east of the campground.**

May 7 7:00 PM “Early Bloomers”

May 14. 1:00 PM, “In Plain Sight” We will try to find the chocolate Lily, right before our eyes.

May 21. 10:00 AM Gypsum Mine and the Missouri Iris

May 28. 8:00 AM “The Early Birds” Come see the who’s who of early season birds.

May 29. 9:00 AM “The Nature Loop” The amazing green gentian, fairy bells and others for this Holiday Bonus Walk.

June 4. 9:00 AM “National Trails Day”, for National Trails Day we will be doing a weed pull on park trails followed by a Leave No Trace class at 1:45 PM

June 11. 8:00 AM “3rd Annual Birding Day” We will have walks throughout the day to some of our best habitats to see different park birds.

June 18. 9:00 AM “The State Flower” a hike to see our State Flower, the Bitterroot, as well as many others.

June 25. 5:00 PM “Plants of Lewis & Clark” Mockorange, the prickly pear and more.

July 2. 9:00 AM “The Wild Spice” Come check out some very useful plants.

July 9 9:00 AM “The Oasis” a return to the nature loop for some late season birding and midsummer blooms.

## Naturalist Walks cont.

July 16 8:00 AM “The OTHER Flax” a chance to see one of the park’s rare flowers, Rigid Yellow Flax.

July 23 **No Walk this Week**

Juy 30 8:00 PM “The Night White” The park’s biggest flower, the nocturnal White Blazing Star.

August 6 **TBA**

August 13 **TBA**

August 20 9:00 AM “Bat Week: walk to the cave entrance.

August 27 10:30 AM “Along the Jeff” A walk along the banks of the Jefferson River to see late season flow-ers.

September 10 5:00 PM **Year End Slideshow**

Times subject to change and other walks not listed above may become available. For more information on times and themes contact Tom Forwood @ (406) 287-3541 or fwptforwood@gmail.com.

For further information on Friday Night Campfire Programs contact Rhea Armstrong @ (406) 287-3541



Photos and graphics Tom Forwood, 2006-2010